

create industrial parks in some of the poorest communities in my district.

Most recently the EDA has approved funding to plan the renovation of the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, MA.

The Colonial Theater recently received national accolades when the First Lady visited this historic theater during her save America's treasures tour.

It is truly an American treasure.

With the help of the EDA, a renovated Colonial Theater will serve as a catalyst to generate further economic growth and to revitalize downtown Pittsfield.

EDA programs have helped create new jobs and economic growth not just in my district, but throughout the country.

We should continue our solid support for this successful agency that has proved to be one of the best hopes for economic renewal in struggling communities.

A TRIBUTE TO ADAM AND PEGGY YOUNG OF WESTHAMPTON BEACH, LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this historic chamber to share with my colleagues the story of two very special people, whose lifetime of selfless contributions to an array of worthy causes, from national charities to local food drives, has improved the lives of countless individuals across this nation and at home on Long Island. I stand here today in the People's House to talk about Adam and Peggy Young, from my hometown of Westhampton Beach, because their devotion to the well-being of their fellow man has inspired so many Long Islanders and serves as a true example of human charity for all of our countrymen.

This Saturday evening, I have the privilege of helping Family Counseling Service of Westhampton Beach—one of many beneficiaries of the Youngs' generous spirit—honor Adam and Peggy with the 1998 "Family of Man Humanitarian Award." No two people are more worthy of this special recognition. No organization is more deserving of the Youngs' efforts than Family Counseling Services.

Since 1971, Family Counseling Service has provided counseling and support services to more than 90,000 adults and children. Led by Executive Director George Busler, Family Counseling's staff has helped families work through such everyday issues as parent-child relationships or the death of a loved one. When families face much more traumatic experiences, like domestic violence or sexual abuse, these dedicated counselors and psychiatrists provided the support and skills they need to survive and carry on.

The same way Family Counseling Services heals the wounds of society's most basic unit—the family—Adam and Peggy Young are committed to a grass roots brand of philanthropy. As the founder of Young Broadcasting, with television stations in America's in America's major markets, Adam Young is a recognized pioneer in harnessing the power of television to benefit the community. In Los Angeles, KCAL sponsors the largest child anti-violence

campaign in the city, while in Nashville, WKRN has raised more than \$1.2 million for local schools. In Albany, WTEN sponsors the groundbreaking "Children First" campaign to raise awareness of children's issues, while WTVO in Rockford, Illinois is leading the effort in that community to combat adult illiteracy.

Here on Long Island, Adam and Peggy direct their seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm towards the East End Hospice, Little Flower Children's Services and Southampton Hospital. Adam and Peggy are also tireless in support of causes that strike close to home. When cancer took the life of their oldest daughter Susan, they joined the American Cancer Society's battle to defeat this dreaded disease. Peggy overcame serious heart problems several years ago and today, the American Heart Association enjoys their avid support. They also support the Palm Beach Rehabilitation Center, which helped Adam through four hip replacement surgeries.

Mr. Speaker, words can hardly express the deep debt of gratitude that we on Eastern Long Island owe to Adam and Peggy Young for all they have done to serve our community and improve the lives of our neighbors. I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me, Family Counseling Services and all who have benefited from their generosity in thanking Adam and Peggy Young for all of their good work. May God bless them just as he has blessed all of us by sending two such wonderful guardian angels.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN AIR 801 CRASH

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, August 6, the people of Guam, the survivors and the family members of the ill-fated Korean Air 801 flight will commemorate the one year anniversary of this sorrowful day. The death of 228 men, women and children is not merely a morbid statistic, these individuals were mothers, fathers, uncles, aunt, grandparents, daughters, sons and friends of hundreds of other individuals spread out across the globe, from Guam to Seoul to California.

While many continue to feel the pain of this tragic episode, others rely on the passage of time as part of their personal healing process. One year ago, a Guam hillside was strewn with wreckage debris and bodies; today, a 24-foot high obelisk stands tall, a memorial to the lives lost on that fateful morning.

Today, I, along with the people of Guam, express my condolences to victims' family members, as well as my gratitude to the various federal, military, government and civilian personnel who assisted in the search, rescue and recovery mission.

Even as this memorial is completed a year after the crash, the investigation process is still underway. I attended the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) March informational hearing conducted to gather more data about the Korean Air 801 accident. While the wreckage examination is complete, a draft of the factual report written by NTSB officials will not be available until the end of September. A

final report determining probable cause of the accident will be submitted to the NTSB Board later this year.

I would like to remind my colleagues that the Foreign Air Carrier Family Support Act emerged from the Korean Air 801 crash. I introduced this legislation a little more than a month after the accident, and it became law within 3 months of its introduction. The swiftness of its passage and the strong bipartisan support demonstrated during its development proves how important respect and understanding must be accorded to those affected by the devastating consequences of an airline crash. The law, enacted at the beginning of the year, requires foreign air carriers to implement a disaster family assistance plan should an accident involving their carrier take place on American soil. I am pleased to note that after the Foreign Air Carrier Family Support Act was enacted, about 95% of airline passengers are now covered by family emergency plans.

Korean Air 801's one-year anniversary should not only remind us of the grief and turmoil of the crash, it should also serve as a reminder of the stalwart courage and tremendous effort displayed by the survivors, family members and friends, and individuals who assisted in the aftermath, whether they physically carried passengers to safety or provided interpretation services to families.

The people of Guam have experienced an enormous loss; at the same time, we have gained an even greater sense of compassion for others. The Korean Air 801 crash has provided us this valuable lesson, let us continue to practice it in remembrance of all those who perished one year ago.

INTRODUCING THE HERO ACT— HOMEBOUND ELDERLY RELIEF OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my Colleague Representative VAN HILLEARY, to introduce a new bill that has as its purpose to resolve the unconscionable mess the BBA made of home health benefits programs when it passed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I have been involved in this effort since last November when I introduced H.R. 2912, intended to restore the venipuncture home health benefit that the BBA terminated for all time. As of this date, 105 of my concerned colleagues from both sides of the aisle have joined me in supporting the restoration of this life-giving home health benefit.

Mr. Speaker, the bad news is that the hastily drawn, ill-considered attack on America's home health industry that took place last year during debate on a balanced budget has resulted in massive harm—both to home health agencies and to the Medicare-enrolled, Medicare-eligible senior citizens who are vulnerable, frail and seriously disabled. This attack on home health agencies has driven 1,100 out of 8,000 agencies nationwide out of business and those who are still open are beginning to refuse to accept Medicare patients.

But the good news is that: Members of this House from both sides of aisle with conservative to moderate to liberal leanings—are finally beginning to band together to try and reverse the trend to shut down the only specialists we have in this country who are trained to provide care for our sickest and most vulnerable population—senior citizens and others who are disabled and homebound.

I take great pride in having introduced H.R. 4339 last week—a bill calling for a three-year moratorium on the so-called temporary payment (interim) system that has caused home health agencies to fail and patients to be left totally without resources to keep them safe.

The Interim Payment system (IPS) was only supposed to remain in place until HCFA could get the Prospective Payment System in place in October of 1999. The horror is that HCFA has advised Congress that due to circumstances, including HCFA's problem with Y2K considerations—it can't meet the deadline next October.

If HCFA doesn't meet that deadline, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter—the BBA says that when next October 1st rolls around it will automatically trigger a 15 percent reduction in all reimbursements to home health agencies.

I deeply appreciate the bipartisan support my bill, H.R. 4339 has received over the past week, and I encourage those Members who haven't cosponsored it, to do so.

But because of a need to provide a solution to the IPS problem while at the same time guaranteeing budget neutrality—we need not only a moratorium—but also a trigger of our own—a trigger that works on behalf of home health agencies—instead of the built-in trigger that gets pulled next October making matters much worse than they are today.

That is why we have introduced the HERO bill today—the Homebound Elderly Relief Opportunity bill—to provide both a moratorium for immediate relief—and a trigger mechanism for future relief and stability among both agencies and the patients they serve.

This is a bipartisan effort to get something done—something positive and constructive to get home health agencies back on their feet—where they deserved to be—and Medicare patients back into home care programs they rely upon for daily comfort, for physical and mental stability, for the chance to remain at home among loved ones while struggling with the infirmities of old age and disease.

That what this joint effort is about today—my colleague Representative VAN HILLEARY of Tennessee and I—it is our rallying cry for action before this Congress adjourns to help those we are sworn to help—vulnerable people who cannot help themselves—the sickest and most frail population in this country—who depend upon home care and the people who deliver it to them.

We need to do the right thing. I strongly believe the combined moratorium to provide immediate relief, and the trigger mechanism in the HERO bill for future cost effectiveness, is the right thing to do.

LEGISLATION TO RAISE THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICERS FROM 57 TO 60

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to change the mandatory retirement age for U.S. Capitol Police Officers from 57 to 60. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

As every Member of Congress knows, the Capitol Police is one of the most professional and dedicated law enforcement agencies in the country. They perform a vital and important function. The force is blessed to have a large number of experienced and highly competent officers. Unfortunately, every year dozens of officers are forced to leave the force because of the mandatory retirement rule. Many of these officers are in excellent physical condition. More important, they possess a wealth of experience and savvy that is difficult, if not, impossible to replace.

Raising the mandatory retirement age from 57 to 60 will provide the Capitol Police with the flexibility to retain experienced, highly competent and dedicated officers. It will enhance and improve security by ensuring that the force experiences a slower rate of turnover. Please keep in mind that should this legislation become law, Capitol Police officers between the ages of 57 and 60 would still have to meet the standard requirements to remain on the force, including proficiency on the shooting range.

This legislation is a common sense measure that will go a long way in improving and enhancing what is already one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the world. Once again, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, August 3, 1998, I was en route back to Washington with family members and missed three roll call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 3743 (Roll Call vote 377); I would have voted "aye" on S. J. Res. 54 (Roll Call Vote 388), and I would have voted "aye" on the Shays/Meehan Campaign Finance Reform Substitute, as Amended (Roll Call Vote 379).

SUCCESS OF CARE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves forward on consideration of fiscal year 1999 foreign operations appropriations, it is worth noting a few of the many successes

CARE, one of the world's largest international relief and development organizations, has had in helping the world's poor. Many of CARE's programs are supported by private donations and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Day-long walks for water forced families in Mozambique to set priorities for water use. Drinking and cooking ranked ahead of washing hands and taking baths. CARE worked with communities to identify health problems related to water and sanitation needs. As a result CARE's Community Water and Sanitation Project was designed to dig wells and install water pumps close to where people lived. Now mothers and children can walk to the nearest pump in minutes and health has improved because of the availability of clean water.

Six years ago, the region had 138 functioning water stations with more than 1,800 people using each. Five years later, the region had 372 water stations, each serving approximately 840 people. As of November 1997, 97 percent of the pumps installed were functioning satisfactorily.

In Ecuador, CARE's SUBIR Project is working with Chachi Indians living in and around the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve and the Yasuni National Park. For years, the country's timber companies have harvested lumber from these protected areas, stripping the land of all vegetation, leaving behind unusable, depleted soil and harming wildlife habitat. Further, the Chachi Indians have gained little or no income from the trees that populate their land. CARE's work is helping preserve the environment and increase the incomes of the indigenous people of the Reserve and National Park. They include working with the Government of Ecuador to obtain land titles to 35,000 hectares for the Chachi, teaching sustainable forest management and negotiating fair lumber prices with the timber companies.

The value organizations like CARE cannot be emphasized enough. Their efforts play an integral role in development assistance worldwide. These programs show how public-private partnerships between the U.S. Government, host country governments, private U.S. citizens and businesses can help others build a better future.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH LUBRANO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph Lubrano, the United States Postal Service (USPS) Brooklyn Postmaster. Joseph was promoted to the position of Brooklyn Postmaster in December of 1997 from his prior position of Officer-in-Charge, Brooklyn Post Office.

I wish to commend Joseph for his efforts in vastly improving the quality of postal service in the borough of Brooklyn. Joseph has expanded passport acceptance services in the Brooklyn post offices, encouraged station managers to meet and greet customers in their stations, and increased hours of operation in Brooklyn post offices and substations. His initiatives and responsiveness has improved customer relations between postal patrons and the USPS.